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Sen. Van Woerkom announces environmental grants

LANSING – The Muskegon County Health Department and the Annis Water Resources Institute of Grand Valley State University received grants this week aimed at protecting Michigan's inland lakes and beaches, announced Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality awarded the Muskegon-based Annis Water Resources Institute \$39,540 to assess bacteria and related toxins in West Michigan lakes. The institute studies freshwater resources.

Additionally, the Muskegon County Health Department received \$5,000 for its inland beach monitoring project. The project checks E. coli bacteria levels to ensure the beaches are safe for swimmers to use.

"I commend Grand Valley State and the Muskegon health department leaders for performing this work," Van Woerkom said. "This money will help ensure local beaches and lakes remain healthy, vibrant parts of the community and available for use by Muskegon County residents."

Both grants come from the Clean Michigan Initiative, a \$675 million bond proposal that Michigan voters approved in 1998. The money is dedicated to protecting Michigan's water resources, upgrading state parks and making other environmental improvements.

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